

known HIV exposure. Statutory protection of public health records exists in Nevada, increasing the likelihood of confidentiality for reports.<sup>3</sup>

- Finally, the increasing number of persons with AIDS and the earlier identification of asymptomatic HIV-infected people must be addressed with organized community-based care for HIV morbidity. Advances in clinical medicine, such as delineating the biologic markers of disease progression and improvements in antiviral therapy and in the control of opportunistic infections, have enabled the medical community to offer effective early intervention to HIV-infected patients.<sup>4</sup> In addition to improved health for HIV-infected patients, organized early intervention offers the best opportunity for preventing the spread of infection.

All of these proposals cost money. The federal govern-

ment is currently spending at least \$1 billion annually on AIDS prevention and research, but not all states are equal partners in this expense. Nevada, ranking 7th in the AIDS incidence, ranked 24th among states for per capita state health agency AIDS expenditures budgeted for 1989 (*Public Health Macroview*, January/February 1989; 2:5). Consideration should be given to increasing state expenditures for the control of HIV-related morbidity and mortality in Nevada.

#### REFERENCES

1. AIDS and Nevada: Second Annual Report. Reno, Nevada Division of Health, September 1988
2. Potterat JJ, Spencer NE, Woodhouse DE, Muth JB: Partner notification in the control of human immunodeficiency virus infection. *Am J Public Health* 1989; 79:874-876
3. Stat Nev ch 138 1989
4. Arno PS, Shenson D, Siegel NF, Frank P, Lee PR: Economic and policy implications of early intervention in HIV disease. *JAMA* 1989; 262:1493-1498

### BYPASS

They have taken pieces of your leg vein  
 And done what they can. Walking  
 On your land, you laugh: "We don't think  
 Of the heart as well protected" and thump  
 The ribs they had to break  
 Explaining how you'd been suffocating  
 For the past year, living on less  
 And less oxygen. Giddy with delight  
 You spread your arm to the shagbark hickories  
 That lean near stone fences. "I'm blessed  
 And I didn't know it 'til this;  
 I've work I love, family and friends,  
 Even my parents, getting on, are still alive."  
 You think you came to at one point,  
 Saw an instrument leaning  
 From the open cavity, a *trocax*,  
 "Can you imagine?" and describe  
 A tool for torture, instead of repair.  
 When you saw the red tracks of stitched skin  
 As if it were fabric to be pinched and sewn,  
 You say you spoke to yourself aloud:  
 "I'm still alive! Amazing!"  
 Now you've become devout, cherish  
 What's unseen and the smallest of animate things,  
 A piece of gray hickory bark that's come  
 Away on your hand, a dead scale of skin.

DONA LUONGO STEIN  
 Aptos, California